

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for facilitating the creation and promotion of creative works, comprising:

a main computer system;

a user interface routine operating on said main computer system or a standalone computer system for visually displaying information about specific undeveloped creative works seeking financial sponsorship on remote user-interactive devices or on said standalone computer system, said undeveloped creative works including motion picture works, wherein said information concerning the undeveloped creative works includes a plot description of at least one of the undeveloped motion picture works;

a process handling routine operating on said main computer system for receiving and processing requests for purchases of benefits relating to a specific undeveloped creative work, said requests received in electronic messages transmitted over a wide area electronic network;

a storage medium associated with said main computer system for storing patron information received from a remote user and associating the patron information to the specific undeveloped creative work selected by the user;

an accounting routine operating on said main computer system that automatically aggregates monetary amounts in a work-specific controlled escrow account, from among one or more work-specific controlled escrow accounts maintained on said storage medium each identified with a different specific undeveloped creative work, for use in development of the specific undeveloped creative work and releases all or a portion of the aggregated monies when a predefined target threshold amount is attained to facilitate completion of the specific undeveloped creative work, whereby records stored on said storage medium maintain a correlation between each work-specific controlled escrow account, the specific undeveloped creative work pertaining thereto, and the patron information associated with each specific undeveloped creative work;

an administrative interface routine operating on said main computer system for providing viewing access for the artist associated with developing the undeveloped creative work [[of]] to the monetary amount in the work-specific controlled escrow account through an electronic connection from an administrative or remote computer to the main computer system; and

a benefit redemption routine operating on said main computer system and having access to the patron information stored in the storage medium, for facilitating electronic notification of patrons associated with the specific undeveloped creative work concerning availability of their purchased benefits, or upon the condition that the predefined target threshold amount is not attained, through messages transmitted over said wide area electronic network.

2. (Original) The computerized system of claim 1, further comprising means for disseminating to user-interactive devices presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works.

3. (Original) The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said means for disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works comprises a web server coupled to a storage medium having stored thereon one or more web pages containing the presentation information.

4. (Original) The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said means for disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works comprises software instructions for executing steps whereby the presentation information is downloaded to remote computerized machines configured to allow a plurality of different potential patrons to review the presentation information.

5. (Original) The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said means for disseminating presentation information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works comprises a portable storage medium comprising software instructions for execution on a remote patron computer and data files comprising at least a portion of said presentation information.

6. (Original) The computerized system of claim 2, wherein said presentation information exists in static form on a printed or magnetic medium.

7. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the process handling routine receives electronic payment information from the patron electronically from user-interactive devices and automatically provides the electronic payment information to said accounting routine for aggregation with other received funds.

8. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the process handling routine collects patron information including the name of the patron and the patron's e-mail address, and associates the patron information with the undeveloped creative work and the purchased benefit.

9. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the benefit redemption routine uses the patron's email address to notify the patron concerning the availability of the patron's purchased benefit or that the predefined target threshold amount was not attained.

10. (Original) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises a copy of or discount relating to the creative work.

11. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises a discount relating to merchandise or service relating to the creative work, other than the creative work itself.

12. (Original) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises a copy of or discount on a creative work different from the undeveloped creative work or to other merchandise or services unrelated to the undeveloped creative work.

13. (Original) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein data in the storage medium is updated to include presentation information relating to in-progress development or completion of the creative work.

14. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 13, wherein the updated presentation information comprises audio, image and/or video data of the creative work.

15. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 13, further comprising an update notification routine having access to the patron information, stored in the storage medium, for facilitating automatic electronic notification of patrons associated with a particular undeveloped creative work concerning the updated presentation information.

16. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the purchased benefit comprises digital data relating to the creative work, and wherein a patron may obtain the purchased benefit electronically by accessing the computerized system and requesting electronic transmission of the digital data to a patron's computer.

17. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein said benefit redemption routine electronically transmits a key number to said patrons, which may be used by said patrons to redeem the purchased benefit online and/or at a point-of-sale location.

18. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising the steps of:
providing, to a remote user over a wide area electronic network, presentation information concerning specific undeveloped creative works seeking financial sponsorship, said undeveloped creative works including motion picture works, wherein said presentation information includes a plot description of at least one of the undeveloped motion picture works;

receiving and processing requests for purchases of predefined benefits relating to a specific undeveloped creative work;

storing patron information and associating the patron information to the specific undeveloped creative work;

aggregating monetary amounts received from the patrons in a locked account for the specific undeveloped creative work until a predefined target

amount is reached, whereupon all or a portion of the aggregated monies is released from the locked account to facilitate completion of the specific undeveloped creative work; and

automatically electronically notifying the patrons associated with the specific undeveloped creative work concerning attainment of the predefined benefits if the predefined target amount was attained and, if it was not attained, that a substitute benefit relating to a different specific creative work is available.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing presentation information concerning the undeveloped creative work comprises the step of displaying presentation information about the undeveloped creative work at a computerized device in response to a patron request entered via the computerized device.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, where said patron request is received electronically over a distributed network from a remote patron computer.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of providing presentation information concerning the undeveloped creative work further comprises the step of electronically disseminating presentation

information relating to one or more undeveloped creative works to a remote user-interactive device.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said presentation information is electronically disseminated by a web server coupled to a storage medium having stored thereon one or more web pages containing the presentation information.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing information related to an undeveloped creative work comprises the step of storing, on a portable storage medium readable at a remote patron computer, software instructions for execution on the remote patron computer and data files comprising at least a portion of said presentation information.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said presentation information exists in static form on a printed or portable electronic storage medium.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of receiving electronic payment information from the patron.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

collecting patron information including the name of the patron and the patron's e-mail address; and

associating the patron information with the undeveloped creative work and the purchased benefit.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of utilizing the patron's email address to electronically notify the patron concerning availability of the patron's predefined benefit or that the predefined target amount was not attained.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises a copy of or discount relating to the creative work.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises a discount relating to merchandise or service relating to the creative work, other than the creative work itself.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises a copy of or discount on a creative work different from the undeveloped creative work or to other merchandise or services unrelated to the undeveloped creative work.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of allowing selective access by patrons purchasing predefined benefits relating to the undeveloped creative work to updated or additional presentation information relating to in-progress development or completion of the creative work, said updated or additional presentation information being unavailable to the general public.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the updated or additional presentation information comprises audio, image and/or video data relating to in-progress development or completion of the creative work.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of electronically notifying patrons associated with a particular undeveloped creative work concerning the updated or additional presentation information.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predefined benefit comprises digital data relating to the creative work, the method further comprising the steps of:

receiving through electronic means a request from a patron to obtain the predefined benefit; and

electronically transmitting the digital data to a remote patron computer.

35. (Withdrawn) A computerized system for facilitating the creation and promotion of creative works, comprising:

an administrative transaction handler for receiving and storing visual and/or audio information about specific undeveloped creative works seeking financial sponsorship, said undeveloped creative works including motion picture works, wherein said information concerning the undeveloped creative works includes a plot description of at least one of the undeveloped motion picture works;

a patron transaction handler for conveying the visual and/or audio information about the specific undeveloped creative works to remote computerized devices over an electronic network for presentation to potential patrons, said patron transaction handler processing requests received over the electronic network from the remote computerized devices for purchases of predefined future benefits relating to selected ones of the specific undeveloped creative works;

a storage medium for storing patron information and associating the patron information to the specific undeveloped creative work selected by the user;

an accounting engine that aggregates monetary amounts from the patrons for each of the specific undeveloped creative works in a locked account, automatically transmits an electronic notification upon attainment of a predefined target amount, and releases all or a portion of the aggregated monetary amount from the locked account when the predefined target amount

is attained so as to facilitate completion of the specific undeveloped creative work;

an administrative interface providing viewing access for the artist associated with developing the undeveloped creative work of the monetary amount in the locked account; and

a benefit redemption processing engine having access to the patron information stored in the storage medium, for electronically notifying those patrons having purchased predefined benefits relating to a specific creative work concerning availability or attainment of their predefined benefits if the predefined target amount was reached and, if was not, that the predefined target amount was not attained.

36. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 35, wherein said patron transaction handler is configured to transmit to the remote computerized devices an identification of a plurality of categories of creative works, and to cause visual and/or audio information to be presented to users concerning only those undeveloped creative works in one or more categories interactively selected by the user.

37. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 36, wherein said categories include one or more of motion pictures, television productions, books, musical works, sculptural works, or still image visual works.

38. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 35, further comprising:

means for adding and associating with particular creative works updated or additional audio and/or visual presentation information relating to in-progress development of the creative work;

means for providing selective access to the updated or additional audio and/or visual presentation information only for patrons having purchased predefined benefits relating to the creative work.

39. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 35, wherein said predefined benefit comprises a copy of or discount relating to the creative work.

40. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 35, wherein the predefined benefit comprises digital data relating to the creative work, and wherein said benefits processing engine comprises means for transmitting the digital data to a patron at the patron's request.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting to said patrons a digital coupon that is redeemable electronically at an online website.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting a key number to said patrons, which may be used by said

patrons to redeem the purchased benefit online and/or at a point-of-sale location.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Withdrawn) The computerized system of claim 1, wherein the undeveloped creative work is a motion picture, and wherein patrons who contributed funding for the motion picture are listed in the credits in distributed copies of the completed motion picture.

45. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for facilitating the creation and promotion of creative works, comprising:

a host computer configured to process and store information, said host computer having a data storage medium and a network interface for connecting to a wide area electronic network;

said host computer configured to store information about specific undeveloped creative works seeking financial sponsorship, said undeveloped creative works including motion picture works, wherein said information concerning the undeveloped creative works includes a plot description of at least one of the undeveloped motion picture works;

said host computer further configured to:

provide, to remote users over the wide area electronic network, visual presentation information about specific undeveloped creative

works seeking financial sponsorship, including the plot description of at least one of the undeveloped motion picture works;

receive and process requests from remote users for purchases of benefits relating to a specific undeveloped creative work;

store patron information received from a remote user and associate the patron information to the specific undeveloped creative work selected by the user;

aggregate monetary amounts in a work-specific controlled escrow account, from among one or more work-specific controlled escrow accounts maintained on said data storage medium each identified with a different specific undeveloped creative work, for use in development of the specific undeveloped creative work, whereby records stored on said data storage medium maintain a correlation between each work-specific controlled escrow account, the specific undeveloped creative work pertaining thereto, and the patron information associated with each specific undeveloped creative work;

release all or a portion of the aggregated monies when a predefined target threshold amount is attained to facilitate completion of the specific undeveloped creative work;

provide viewing access for the artist associated with developing the undeveloped creative work ~~[[of]]~~ to the monetary amount in the work-specific controlled escrow account through an electronic connection from an administrative or remote computer to the host computer; and

electronically notify patrons associated with the specific undeveloped creative work concerning availability of their purchased benefits, or upon the condition that the predefined target threshold amount is not attained.

46. (Currently Amended) A method involving a computerized system for facilitating the creation and promotion of creative works, comprising:

providing, to remote users over a wide area electronic network, presentation information concerning specific undeveloped creative works seeking financial sponsorship, said undeveloped creative works including motion picture works, wherein said presentation information includes a plot description of at least one of the undeveloped motion picture works;

receiving and automatically processing requests from remote users for purchases of predefined benefits relating to a specific undeveloped creative work, said requests received over said wide area electronic network;

automatically storing, on a host computer, patron information received from the remote ~~user~~ users and associating the patron information to the specific undeveloped creative work selected by the remote ~~user~~ users;

automatically aggregating monetary amounts reflected by said remote user requests in a work-specific controlled escrow account on said host computer, from among one or more work-specific controlled escrow accounts maintained on said host computer each identified with a different specific undeveloped creative work, for use in development of the specific undeveloped

creative work, whereby records stored on said host computer maintain a correlation between each work-specific controlled escrow account, the specific undeveloped creative work pertaining thereto, and the patron information associated with each specific undeveloped creative work;

releasing all or a portion of the aggregated monies when a predefined target threshold amount is attained to facilitate completion of the specific undeveloped creative work;

providing viewing access for the artist associated with developing the undeveloped creative work [[of]] to the monetary amount in the work-specific controlled escrow account through an electronic connection from an administrative or remote computer to the host computer; and

electronically notifying patrons associated with the specific undeveloped creative work concerning availability of their purchased benefits, or upon the condition that the predefined target threshold amount is not attained, through messages transmitted over said wide area electronic network.